

TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.HEALTH REPORT.1939

by

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Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS.REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATES.

Area (acres)	...	...	4,599
Resident Population (Census 1931)	...	...	16,832
Resident Population (Mid-year 1939)	...	...	17,750
Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates.			18,260
Rateable Value	...	...	£ 151,661
Sum represented by a penny rate			£ 592
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books.			4,910

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
LIVE (LEGITIMATE ...)	226	133	93
BIRTHS (ILLEGITIMATE ...)	13	3	10
	<u>239</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>103</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, mid 1939 .. 13.5

	Total.	Male.	Female.
STILL (LEGITIMATE ...)	5	3	2
BIRTHS (ILLEGITIMATE ...)	2	2	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. .. 20.5

	Total.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS	206	88	118

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population ... 11.3

Deaths from puerperal causes ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	37.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	77.0

The total number of infant deaths was: ... 9



Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	25
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. T. Muir Thomson, Managing Director of the Tonbridge Water Works Company, reports as follows :-

"There have been no main extensions during the past year with the exception of mains laid of larger dimensions to augment the supply where the mains were too small. This work was done on the Leigh Road from Stocks Green Road to Leigh, and Philpotts Railway Bridge to Lower Street.

The supply from the Tonbridge Water Company has been satisfactory in every way, both as regards quality and quantity.

As you are aware, the Company have now linked up with the Sevenoaks Water Company, where, when required, as much as 300,000 gallons a day can be taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

No important alterations, improvements or developments were made during 1939.

SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

The Surveyor, Mr. Bert Bishop, desires me to insert the following regarding the above Scheme. -

"The Council have made provision for the reception of the waste paper in the collecting vehicles, and householders are now asked to "Place Clean Paper — newspapersm magazines, wrapping paper, card-board — in a NEAT BUNDLE on top of the Dustbin for the dustman to collect, or hand it to the dustman".

Special collections will be made for large quantities from business premises.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

		<u>Total</u> <u>Cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases</u> <u>admitted to</u> <u>Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	11	11	-
Diphtheria	...	10	10	-
Pneumonia	...	13	1	3
Erysipelas	...	6	-	-
Puerperal pyrescia	...	3	-	-
Relapsing Fever	...	1	-	-
		<u>44</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>3</u>



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SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases were notified compared with 19 in the previous year, all being treated in the Joint Isolation Hospital. The age-periods of incidence were as under :-

$\frac{2-5}{4}$	$\frac{5-10}{2}$	$\frac{10-15}{1}$	$\frac{15-20}{2}$	$\frac{25-35}{2}$	=	11.
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The Schools attended by the patients and the home contacts were visited by the Health Nurse.

DIPHTHERIA.

Ten cases occurred as against 7 in 1938. They were all treated in the Isolation Hospital at Capel. They were of the following age-periods :-

$\frac{5-10}{6}$	$\frac{10-15}{2}$	$\frac{25-35}{1}$	$\frac{35-45}{1}$	=	10
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Two bacteriological "carriers" were discovered by swabbing of contacts who were admitted to hospital for treatment.

RELAPSING FEVER.

One case was notified in an adult male who was successfully isolated and treated at home.

MINOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Head Teachers notified a total of 62 cases as follows :-
Whooping Cough 39, Chickenpox 12, mumps 4, impetigo 3, german measles 2, scabies 1, and conjunctivitis ('pink-eye') 1.

TUBERCULOSIS. —

A total of 31 cases were notified; 10 deaths were registered.

AGE - PERIODS.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
15	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-
25	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-
35	2	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
45	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & up.	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	12	14	3	2	7	3	-	-
	26		5		10		-	

REPORT OF MR. MARK JENNER, THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

A Tabular Statement, submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, showing the number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector from January 1st to September 30th, 1939, and by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector, from October 1st to December 31st, 1939; the number of notices served during the Year, distinguishing statutory from other notices; and the result of the service of such notices.

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year - 1926

Number of informal notices given for sanitary and housing defects - 190

Number of Statutory notices served under the Public Health or Housing Acts - 1

Bakehouses -

Number in District	...	16
Number of visits	...	37
Number of defects found and remedied -		7

Dairies -

Number in District	...	17
Number of visits	...	81
Number of faults found and remedied -		6
Number of Producers of milk	-	9
Number of Purveyors of milk	-	29
Number of dealers licences granted to sell milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order -		6

Slaughter-houses -

Number in District	...	6
Number of visits	...	446
Number of defects found and remedied -		3

MEAT INSPECTION - CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					
Number Inspected	152	17	76	370	338
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned					
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	7			3	6
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	2	1			
Some Part or Organ Condemned	5	1			2

Amount of Food Condemned during the Year - 1 ton 3 cwts. 3 qtrs. 19 lbs.

Food & Drugs Act 1938,
Secs. 13 & 14.

No. of Registered Food Preparing places -	34
No. of Premises Registered for the Manufacture, sale or storage of Ice Cream -	...
No. of visits -	108
No. of faults found and remedied -	11

Offensive Trades -

No. in District -	2
No. of visits -	7
No. of faults found and remedied -	1

Factories -

No. in District -	113
No. of visits -	77
No. of defects found and remedied -	10

Shops Act, 1934 (sec.10)

Public Health Act 1936

(Sec.46). <u>Workplaces.</u> No. of visits -	81
Sanitary and other defects found and remedied -	6

Public Health Act, 1936.

(Secs.249 - 258).

Canal Boats.

No dwelling boats used the Wharf
during the Year and there are no
boats on the register.

Public Health Act 1936. Number of sites in the area used for
(Section 269) camping purposes by persons to whom
Camping Sites. the licensing provisions apply - Nil

No. of camping sites licensed by the Council -	Nil
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Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act -

33 visits have been made and advice and assistance has been given
in difficult cases. A report was made on the effort made in connection
with National Rat Week.

Infectious Disease -

No. of visits -	67
No. of premises disinfected -	31
Lots of bedding and clothing removed for steam disinfection -	23

Nuisances, including sanitary and housing defects dealt with
during the Year -

Accumulations - (offensive)	...	3
Animals - (keeping of)	...	6
Dustbins -	...	61
Coppers -	...	8
Drainage -	...	7
Re-constructed	...	20
Repaired -	...	20
Cleansed -	...	33
Dampness -	...	39
Floors - (defective)	...	50
Gutters, Roofs, etc. -	...	3
Sanitary Accommodation -	...	42
Insufficient -	...	10
Defective -	...	20
Sinks and Baths -	...	5
Stoves -	...	73
Tents and Vans -	...	6
Walls and Ceilings -	...	46
Water Supplies (unsatisfactory)	...	21
Windows -	...	46
Yard Paving and Drainage -	...	
Others -	...	

Water sampling.

16 samples of water were collected and forwarded for analysis or examination.

Examination of Milk for cleanliness.

13 samples of milk were collected from farms at the request of the County Licensing Authority and forwarded for bacteriological examination or the methylene blue test, to meet the licensing requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, or the terms of the Accredited Milk Scheme.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year :-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	367
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose -			743
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932 -			50
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose -			129
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	23
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	70

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers -	56
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -	...	Nil.
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(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices - By Owners -	...	1

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders -	Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 : Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding :-

(a)	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the Year -	20
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein -	20
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein -	143



- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the Year - ... 5
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the Year - ... 7
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases - 52
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding - Nil.

Eradication of Bed Bugs -

- (1) The number of (a) Council Houses - 15
(b) Other houses - 17
found to be infested.
- (2) The number of (a) Council houses - 15
(b) Other houses - 12
disinfested.
- (3) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs - Fumigation with "Cimex blocks and sulphur candles, and cleansing and spraying with "Zaldicide", "Certain", "Fuminal", etc. insecticides.
- (4) The methods employed for securing that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses - Treatment with Hydrogen cyanide gas in fumigating vans.
- (5) Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by the local Authority or by a Contractor - Council houses are treated by the Council's staff; private houses are treated by builders and by owners and occupiers as necessary. Belongings moved from private houses to Council houses are dealt with by Associated Fumigators Ltd.

The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing, include inspection, and the giving of advice verbally and in printed form.

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11th April, 1940.

